

News from Avon Township

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At the last meeting of the Avon Township Supervisors we honored three individuals – Richard Bresnahan, LeRoy Gondringer and Gerry Kremers. Collectively, they served the Township for a whopping 72 years!

At the ceremony, we summarized their contributions to the Township and then presented Richard and LeRoy with plaques to thank them for their service. Sadly, Gerry passed away in January, but his wife Donna was present to accept his plaque.

As you may remember from the February news, Gerry served on the Planning Commission for a dozen years. He was a strong and vocal advocate for the average resident.

Richard and LeRoy began their service as members of the Planning Commission in the late 1980's and were first elected as Supervisors in the early 2000's. This "dynamic duo" worked side-by-side for the benefit of the Township for 30 years!

As members of the Planning Commission, LeRoy and Richard were involved with updating the Township Comprehensive Plan and Ordinance. This work included designating environmentally sensitive properties as conservation areas and provided for their long-term preservation.

In the late 90's, LeRoy and Richard worked closely with County staff in developing the Stearns County 439 Land Use Ordinance and then, following its adoption, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Township. The MOU, which outlines the specific permitting responsibilities of both the County and Township, allowed the Township to retain control over critical permits while turning responsibility for other permits over to the County.

LeRoy and Richard were also instrumental in developing an Orderly Annexation Agreement with the City of Avon. This agreement provides protection to the Township tax base by limiting annexation to specific areas near the city. It remains in place and has served to bring needed guidance to this issue.

While not raising the tax levy for Township residents for more than ten years, LeRoy and Richard oversaw the process to build a Town Hall, Maintenance Shop and Salt Shed. These facilities provide much needed space for meetings, a consistent location for residents to vote, and storage for snowplows and other road maintenance equipment. These additions were

accompanied by hiring a person to plow snow and maintain roads. By taking over snow plowing, brush and weed control, ditch maintenance, road sign replacements, and countless other jobs, the Township has saved residents much money.

LeRoy and Richard were also involved in stopping a major landfill from being sited in an environmentally unsuitable location in the Township, and they worked to prevent the CAPX2020 power line from cutting through the Township.

We are grateful that individuals like Richard Bresnahan, LeRoy Gondringer, and Gerry Kremers have devoted themselves to the Town. Their work, and that of many others, is what makes Avon Township such a wonderful place to live.